



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 490**

*January Session, 2017*

Substitute House Bill No. 5944

*House of Representatives, April 11, 2017*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. FOX of the 148th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REPORTS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1      Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) (a) Except as provided in  
2      subsection (b) of this section, each joint standing committee of the  
3      General Assembly having cognizance of any state agency that is the  
4      subject of a report issued by the Auditors of Public Accounts pursuant  
5      to any provision of the general statutes shall hold a public hearing  
6      concerning such report not later than one hundred eighty days after  
7      such report is submitted to the General Assembly by the auditors.
- 8      (b) The chairpersons of any such committee may elect not to hold a  
9      public hearing on any auditor report that (1) contains no state agency  
10     violations of state statute or regulation, (2) contains only minor or  
11     technical recommendations, or (3) the chairpersons determine does not  
12     otherwise necessitate a public hearing.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	New section
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**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill requires legislative committees to hold a public hearing after the issuance of a report issued by the Auditors of Public Accounts unless the chairpersons of the committee of cognizance determines that the report does not necessitate said hearing. This will not result in a fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB-5944*****AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REPORTS OF THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill, with certain exceptions, requires legislative committees to hold a public hearing within 180 days after the Auditors of Public Accounts submit a report to the legislature concerning a state agency within the committee's cognizance. The committee's chairpersons may decline to hold a hearing if (1) the report contains (a) no state agency violations of state statute or regulation or (b) only minor or technical recommendations, or (2) the chairpersons determine the report does not otherwise necessitate a public hearing.

Under existing law, reports submitted to the legislature by the auditors include the following:

1. audit reports of state agencies (CGS § 2-90c);
2. any actual or contemplated (a) unauthorized, illegal, irregular, or unsafe handling or expenditure of state funds or (b) breakdowns in the safekeeping of any other state resources (CGS § 2-90e); and
3. an annual report of the auditors' office operations, including any recommendations they deem desirable (CGS § 2-92).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    13    Nay   4    (03/27/2017)